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Today's world is filled with the chaos of widespread war, violence, racial or religious intolerance, worldwide diseases, starvation, poverty, and other numerous problems. Individuals ask themselves, "What role do I play in today's world?" Many of us, if not all, are common ordinary people who do not affect the world in a drastic way. However, we do play a part in the tragic scene of today's society. It may not be a lead role like that which was played by Dr. King. Our part is acted out through our deeds at home and in our community.

Martin Luther King Jr. is well known for his work for racial tolerance. In today's society, we still face this problem. Especially since September 11th races, such as those from Middle Eastern descent, and religions, such as Muslim, are treated unfairly. There is also discrimination against the growing Hispanic population in our nation. What step can I take toward racial equality? Throughout my community, I can treat all people with the respect that they deserve. Our nation was founded on the principle that all people are created equal. Therefore, all people deserve equal respect. Respect is easy when you comprehend a person's background. People often fear the things that they do not understand. I could educate myself about the many different ethnic cultures in our world. Once I understood the cultures, I could explain them to others. Therefore we could view people from other cultures as friends and not enemies.

There are two types of prejudice today. The first group of people openly admit their prejudices. The second group view themselves as liberal but actually are

unconsciously prejudice. For example, this type of person may believe that everyone deserves a good education but will send their child to an all white school. These people do not admit their prejudice. The first thing I can do is to be honest with myself, evaluate my attitudes, and change any narrow-minded belief I encounter. I can also address any prejudice attitudes I see in my friends.

Poverty is another issue addressed by Dr. King. Many countries throughout the world face the issue of poverty. In my home, I can collect money and give it to mission services that help impoverished people. I could also spend my free time working with the Habitat for Humanity program. Through this program, I could help build shelters for impoverished families.

Many people do not have enough food to survive. I could collect food in my neighborhood and donate it to the local food bank. I could also spend my leisure time working in soup kitchens. I could help prepare the food and later distribute it.

There are many ways for a person to further the message of Dr. King in their home and community. With the help of others, we can make a difference in the world, peacefully, like Dr. King.